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Message from the Mayor

When school is out for the summer, many low-to-moderate-income children lose access to educational and recreational resources and daily meals they receive throughout the school year.

On June 21, I participated in one of my favorite events -- the annual cannonball "dive," which traditionally kicks off "DC Summer Fun." This annual summer event, which this year was at the beautiful new Turkey Thicket Recreation Center, is part of my ongoing effort to provide safe and productive summer programs for all children in the District.

I am especially proud of this citywide initiative because it is a collaborative effort among District agencies, the private sector and community-based organizations providing vital recreational, academic, feeding and employment services for local youth during the summer months. I believe that the availability of such programs will make a tremendous difference in our communities.

District agencies, nonprofit groups and corporate partners team up to provide much-needed programs such as summer school classes, feeding stations, recreational opportunities and summer camps. Some of the agencies and organizations that continue to support and sponsor our summer programs include Kaiser Permanente, which was instrumental in many community projects throughout the District, the National Capital Society of Plastic Surgeons, which donated 200 bicycle helmets, the Washington Tennis Association whose members volunteer with our kids and who contribute funds for tennis clinics; DC United which is making a financial gift to purchase soccer equipment; Nike, which has also donated soccer supplies; the Washington Wizards, who have donated game tickets; and, the Washington Nationals who are organizing a summer youth baseball clinic at RFK.

Chief Charles Ramsey joined me at Turkey Thicket to discuss the Metropolitan Police Department's (MPD) citywide summer youth crime prevention strategy, whose goal is to provide young people with safe ways to spending their summer days and nights.

Participating District agencies include: Department of Parks & Recreation (DPR); DC Public Schools; State Education Office; DC Public Library; Department of Mental Health; Department of Human Services; Department of Employment Services; the Department of Health, the Department of Mental Health and the Children and Youth Investment Trust Corporation (CYITC).

Summer programs and services include: camps and recreation; summer school; free summer meals program; summer youth employment; health services; and mental health services.

There are three ways to access information about all of these DC Summer Fun programs and services: summer guides were mailed to all households in the District; the DC Summer Fun website – dcsummerfun.dc.gov - provides information; and, Answers, Please! – (202) 463-6211 - provides the same information available on the website by phone 24/7 in multiple languages. Individuals who live in the District may simply dial 211.



AGENCY WEBSITES

Department of Human
Services

Office of Tax and
Revenue

Department of Parks and
Recreation

Department of
Employment Services

Metropolitan Police
Department

Office of Boards and
Commissions

Commission on the Arts
and Humanities

LINKS TO OTHER WEBSITES

Hands on DC

DC Convention and
Tourism

DC Public Library

District Offers Energy Assistance

During this time of rising utility costs, the DC Energy Office (DCEO) is offering several programs that will make homes and businesses more energy efficient, including replacements, rebates and monetary assistance. The office is also introducing an energy rating system and a mortgage program for single family homeowners who are interested in learning about and actively pursuing energy efficiency.

The DCEO is offering to replace old, energy deficient refrigerators and window air conditioners for income eligible DC residents. The Weatherization Energy Star Appliance Program (WESAP) will conduct a home energy audit which will determine the make, model and energy consumption usage of the current refrigerator and window air conditioner. If the audit recommends a more efficient appliance, the applicant will receive one or both appliances for free.

Also, the DCEO is offering \$150, \$100 and \$50 rebates on Energy Star-rated clothes washers, refrigerators and window air conditioners to all DC electric customers. DC electric customers may receive a \$150 rebate on a clothes washer, \$100 rebate on a refrigerator and as many as two \$50 rebates on window air conditioners that were purchased between April 13, 2006 and May 30, 2007.

The DCEO has awarded \$296,000 to 22 DC residents and the University of the District of Columbia to assist with 50 percent of the cost to install renewable energy generation resources. The residents and UDC will be installing solar photovoltaic equipment and a micro wind turbine to reduce dependence on traditional utility power and lower energy consumption. The solicitation for applications was part of a two-year demonstration program called the Renewable Energy Demonstration Project, funded by the Reliable Energy Trust Fund.

A new Home Energy Rating System program offers free home energy audits to DC single family homeowners who are interested in addressing energy efficiency. A certified energy auditor will identify a home's energy deficiencies and District homeowners will receive cost-effective recommendations, that when installed will reduce utility bills. Along with receiving a free audit, interested home-owners will be provided a list of DCEO's partnering financial institutions (Industrial Bank, DC Government Federal Credit Union, or the Operation HOPE Center) to apply for an energy efficient mortgage to install the measures recommended in the audit.

Finally, small business owners may get financial assistance in identifying and installing energy efficient measures. Up to \$2,800 is available per eligible business. The DCEO will conduct an Energy Audit to identify the number and types of electrical energy efficient measures that need to be installed in a facility, and the DCEO will install (at no cost to the business owner) the electrical energy efficient measures recommended in the audit.

For more information on these and other programs, contact the DC Energy Office at 202-673-6750 or 202-673-6738.

District Acts to Protect Trees from Disease

In an effort to protect our trees and keep them healthy the District's Department of Transportation (DDOT) has begun working on injecting the city's elm trees with an important protective chemical to protect the trees from Dutch elm disease. DDOT this year tripled its budget for injecting elm trees with this protective chemical.

The city's elm trees are currently growing throughout all eight wards of the District and there are about 8,000 trees in total. We want to make sure that the District's tree canopy remains one of the most magical things about the nation's capital.

Dutch elm disease is spread from infected to healthy trees by root grafts and bark beetles. Infected trees have wilted, yellow foliage on one or more branches. It is more difficult to identify Dutch elm disease during late summer, because of color changes associated with natural leaf drop, so it is important that all residents help in protecting our trees. Residents may call 202-727-1000 to report a tree that they think may have the disease.



BRC Alerts

DCLMPC Partnership
Works!

DCOA Spotlight on Aging

DHS Outreach

DISB DC Financial
Gateway Express

OAG Inter Alia...

OAPIA Updates

OPGD Grant Funding
Alerts

City and Unions Reach Four-Year District Personnel Agreement

Finally, after eight months of negotiations, my administration and seven unions have reached agreement on the Compensation Units 1 and 2 contracts for FY 2007 through 2010. I am pleased that the city and employee representatives were able to agree because District employees work hard for our city and deserve to be compensated in practical terms with cost subsidies and wage increases.

Compensation Units 1 and 2 consist of approximately 9,000 white and blue collar workers in the District government who work at some 27 District agencies in professional, technical, clerical, administrative, trade and craft positions.

They are represented by agencies and organizations including: American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees; American Federation of Government Employees; Fraternal Order of Police; National Association of Government Employees; Service Employees International Union; Public Service Employees Union; and International Brotherhood of Police Officers.

Wage increases stated in the contract are as follows:

- Fiscal Year 2007- 3.0% effective October 1, 2006;
- Fiscal Year 2008- 3.25% effective October 1, 2007;
- Fiscal Year 2009- 4.0% effective October 1, 2008; and
- Fiscal Year 2010- 4.0% effective October 1, 2009.

We also enhanced the District's current retirement program because I firmly believe that employees should have a secure pension plan for their retirement after a career of public service. These enhancements will provide a defined benefit program along with the pension plan that the District currently offers.

Additionally, the contract provides that the District government subsidizes the cost of monthly transit passes to employees who use Metro to get to and from work. The District will contribute \$25 per month to each employee. (This benefit will not take effect until FY 2008, and the details of how it would operate are still being worked out.)

Furthermore, as part of my continued initiative to provide affordable housing throughout the city, we agreed to contribute .25% in base wages to offset the cost of obtaining affordable housing in the District. At the present time, the District offers residency preferences to employees who live in the District; however, due to the high cost of housing it is often difficult for employees to obtain affordable housing in the District. Therefore, this initiative will encourage employees to live and work in the District.

Art Walk Opens at Former Convention Center Site

On June 15, I helped to cut the ribbon at the opening of *Art Walk*, a large scale outdoor exhibition of twelve works by local artists on the former convention center site. Tied together by the common theme of "metamorphosis" (*a complete or marked change in appearance, character or condition*), each thought provoking work in the exhibition is illustrative of the changing nature of this center-city location.

Art Walk is an example of how art can transform something as mundane as a parking lot into an exciting aesthetic experience. I'm pleased that we've come up with this attractive utilization of the site as we continue to discuss how it will function in the future.

The new Artwalk and Public Garden includes an art corridor for pedestrians, a venue for festivals and markets, a short-term parking area and a series of public gardens including a rain garden. Sustainable design and construction were paramount to the interim use of the site. Elements such as recycled glass in the walkways and a rain garden to help filter water before it enters the city storm sewer system were incorporated into the project. The elements of the site have been enlivened with plants and vibrant colors.

I hope that you all will visit *Art Walk* at 10th Street, NW, between New York Avenue and H Street, NW.



District Activities



Mayor Williams performs his final trademark cannonball "dive" to kick off the summer season at Turkey Thicket Recreation Center.



Mayor Williams delivers remarks at the installation of the *Art Walk* exhibit at the former Convention Center site.



Mayor Williams presents a proclamation and District flag to TeamDC.

Community News

- [Mayor Williams Expresses Confidence in Fire/EMS Chief](#)
- [Mayor Testifies on City Budget That Boosts Funding on Libraries and Other Public Services](#)
- [Mayor Testifies on Hill About Cuts in Funding for Washington's Anti-Terrorism Preparations](#)

Upcoming Events

[View All](#) [News Releases](#)

- | | |
|------|---|
| 7/6 | Homebuying Basics Seminar
12:30 pm — 1:30 pm
9th Floor Boardroom
801 North Capitol Street, NE |
| 7/14 | 3rd Annual Sidewalk Housing Fair
11 am — 3 pm
801 North Capitol Street, NE |

